

RUSHING PEACE WORK BEFORE DEPARTURE OF PRES. WILSON

The Draft of the Project for a Society of Nations Is Expected to Be Finished at the Session Today, It Having Been Two-Thirds Completed Last Night.

BELGIANS DISAPPOINTED WILSON WILL NOT SEE THEM

IMPORTANT DEMANDS HOLD WILSON IN PARIS

A Great Deal Has Been Accomplished to Settle the Territorial Questions Coming Before the Peace Congress.

Paris, Feb. 8.—The peace conference commission on a society of nations expects to finish its work at the session to begin at 10:30 o'clock a. m. to-day. At a long session last night, the committee completed two-thirds of the draft of the project.

Paris, Feb. 8.—Feverish haste marks the proceedings of the peace delegates in the few days remaining before the return of President Wilson to the United States. The most difficult problems relate to the new boundaries, to be created and which have aroused the aspirations of many nations, especially the little ones, for the territory of their neighbors.

The president has definitely postponed his trip to Belgium, although the Belgians greatly desire that he personally inspect their ruined country and industries and be convinced of the justice of their claim for reparation. The French also would have been glad if the president not only could have been able to go to Belgium, but if he could have continued his visits to devastated France. The French feeling in this matter has been voiced by Captain Andre Tardieu in his declaration that the German blockade should be continued indefinitely.

More important demands, however, have required the president's continued presence in Paris. It is regarded as necessary that the associated powers shall present a solid front when the delegates of the central powers are admitted into the conference. Otherwise, it is felt in some quarters, the enemy defeated on the field might succeed by cunning and intrigue in causing dissension among the associated powers and in getting better terms for themselves by offering tempting alliances. The main efforts of the conference leaders, therefore, are being directed toward the consolidation of their own forces and gaining adhesion to the fundamental principles which are to govern the future relations of states.

A great deal has been done to settle the various territorial issues by mediation and having said disputes submitted to the society of nations. A success in this direction has been the settlement between Jugoslavia and Italy.

As these difficulties are overcome, however, others appear in the shape of demands by some elements for the imposition of harsher terms on Germany than are contained in the present armistice agreement, not only for the present, but also for the distant future. Some of these proposals are that Germany should be kept blockaded indefinitely, even after the signing of the final peace treaty in order to permit France and Belgium to rehabilitate their injured industries so as to be able to compete with Germany in the world's markets. The question has been raised, however, whether they may not be regarded as irreconcilable with that part of the primary peace plan in which it is declared that no economic discrimination shall be permitted.

It was indicated at yesterday's meeting of the supreme war council that the civilian elements had decided that the time had come to assert themselves, and issues that developed at that meeting will be considered at the next gathering without the presence of the military leaders.

Simultaneously with this work the special commission on a society of nations will be adding the finishing touches to the great project, which, it is expected, will be completed to-day in readiness for the next plenary meeting of the conference which probably will be held early next week.

SOME NATIONS FAVORED MORE DRASTIC TERMS

Military Representatives Were Given Opportunity to Be Heard by the Supreme War Council on Extension of Armistice.

Paris, Friday, Feb. 7.—Many important matters were before the supreme war council, comprising the council of the great powers and the military commanders on all fronts, when it met to-day to consider primarily the extension of the armistice with Germany, which expires on Feb. 17. Although the final decisions went over until to-morrow, the session was interesting from the number of subjects demanding attention that were presented by the naval and military chiefs.

Reports were made by the military high commands regarding demobilization and the relative forces of the powers to

be maintained in the occupied regions. The Versailles military council also submitted a report as to the military forces available for the disturbed regions of Turkey.

The naval branch of the council presented recommendations formulated as the result of consultations among the British, Italian and American naval commanders, bearing mainly on the turning over of the German submarines, blockade restrictions and the surrender of the German commercial fleet. This fleet, it is stated, is ready to be turned over, but the allies thus far have not agreed upon the allotment of the steamers among the various allied nations nor upon the compensation for the use of the vessels.

When an agreement is reached and the United States receives its share of the ships, they will be manned by the American navy and fly the Stars and Stripes, the initials of the relief council being added to the flag.

The commission on blockade also presented a report favoring the lightening of the blockade restrictions in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic.

A tendency was manifested in some military quarters to impose further drastic terms upon Germany when the armistice was extended, but no decision was reached to-day as to what measures might be taken. After hearing the views of the military representatives the council of the great powers decided to continue the discussion to-morrow, when the decisions will be made without the presence of these representatives. This last move was regarded in some quarters as significant of the gradual change from peace conditions to those of normal peace times.

After the session the following official statement on the proceedings was issued:

"The president of the United States of America, the prime minister and foreign minister of the allied and associated powers, the Japanese representatives and the military representatives of the supreme war council, assisted by naval authorities and technical advisers, met at the Quai d'Orsay between 2:30 and 5:30 p. m. to discuss the terms of the extension of the armistice with Germany.

"The president of the United States of America and the representatives of the allied and associated powers will meet to-morrow at 3 p. m. to continue this discussion."

Paris, Feb. 8.—Proposals to discard the Senate seniority rule were considered to-day at a caucus of Republican senators. Definite plans for reorganization of the next Senate, in which the Republicans will have a majority of two, were brought before the caucus.

The recently appointed rules revision committee of which Senator Lenroot of Wisconsin is chairman had prepared a report for submission to the caucus. The report, Senator Lenroot said, recommends a revision of the rules so as to prohibit a chairman of any of the ten principal committees from serving as chairman of another committee. A chairman of any one of the ten larger committees, it is recommended, may serve on a minor committee, but shall not by seniority be named as a conference representative of the minor committee unless so elected by a majority vote of the committee members of his own party.

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STRIKE ORDER HAS A WIDE SCOPE

Union Bricklayers and Hoisting Engineers in Many Cities Are to Be Called Out Next Monday.

New York, Feb. 8.—All union bricklayers and hoisting engineers employed in various cities throughout the country on contracts held by members of the Building Trades Employers' association of this city will be called out on a sympathetic strike Monday morning in an attempt to enforce the demands of carpenters employed by the association for a dollar a day increase in wages. William L. Hutchinson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, announced shortly after noon to-day.

This action follows the declaration by the employers' association of a lockout, effective at noon to-day, against all bricklayers and hoisting engineers who have quit work in this city in sympathy with the carpenters.

Employees of individual contractors, not members of the association, were not involved in the strike order, President Hutchinson said, but government and private contracts held by association members in more than a score of cities will be affected. These include Bridgeport, New Haven, Waterbury, Hartford, Norwich, Conn., Boston, Lawrence, Mass., Providence, R. I., Camden, N. J., and Washington, D. C.

No estimate of the number of men affected throughout the country could be made at this time, Mr. Hutchinson said, but he expressed the opinion that at least 25 per cent of the union allied tradesmen in and around New York were employed by members of the builders' association.

Samuel B. Donnelly, secretary of the employers' association, declared that a committee had been appointed to discuss the carpenters' grievances, but that the men must first return to work before any discussion could take place. President Hutchinson asserted that the men would not return to work until the dollar a day increase was granted, although he expressed willingness to submit the controversy to the United States labor board for settlement.

Plans for divisional parades in home cities have been upset by the irregular flow of troops homeward. General March said the units were returning in such scattered form that in a great majority of cases it now seemed improbable that divisional organizations could be held together long enough for large parades.

The department is dealing with this question, however, as the divisions are ordered home. The 27th (New York National Guard) division, will be paraded in New York City, and plans for parading the 42d (Rainbow) division on its return in Washington. General March thought it would be carried out. Wherever opportunity offers for other division parades, advantage will be taken of it.

The greatest military camp in the world would be established at Brest when plans for extension of embarkation facilities have been completed. General March said Brest would be the backbone of the American demobilization system. It already has handled 51 per cent of the soldiers sent back to the United States up to date. Its capacity for 50,000 men is to be doubled.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 8.—The battleship Kansas and five transports bringing 300 officers and nearly 8,000 men, were announced by the war department to-day as having sailed from France. Among the units on board are the 116th engineers (41st division, a battalion of the 368th infantry, and a battalion of the 351st field artillery (93d division), and the 42d coast artillery.

The Kansas is expected to arrive at Newport News, Feb. 16, with the headquarters and supply company, medical detachment, and companies A to G, inclusive, of the 368th infantry; thirty-three casual officers, and about fifty sick and wounded.

The transport Harriburg, due at New York Feb. 15, brings the field and staff, headquarters and supply company, medical detachment, and companies A to G, inclusive, of the 368th infantry; thirty-three casual officers, and about fifty sick and wounded.

The Louisville is due at New York Feb. 16, with the field and staff, supply company, medical detachment, batteries A, B, C and D of the 351st field artillery; headquarters 167th field artillery brigade, detachment of Co. G, 368th infantry, and convalescent detachments numbers 9, 10 and 12; also about 300 naval men and 13 sailors' wives.

The transport Kronland is due at New York Feb. 17, with the 116th regiment, coast artillery complete, casual companies of Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts men, 102d aero replacement squadron, photographic section numbers 19, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 26, headquarters 38th coast artillery brigade, convalescent detachments 31, 32 and 45 to 49, inclusive, and 16 casual officers.

The Polar Bear and Maiden are to arrive at Baltimore Feb. 18 and New York Feb. 17, respectively, with a few casual officers each.

TO VOTE ON GENERAL STRIKE
As Protest Against Wage Reduction in Montana Mines.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 8.—The question as to whether a general strike in all industries of this city shall be declared at once as a protest against the reduction of wages in the copper mines of this district was expected to be determined to-day. At two mass meetings last night, held at the headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World, resolutions were adopted calling for a general strike. Another mass meeting was set for this morning, at which demands of the miners were to be formulated and later presented to the mining companies.

The mass meetings last night were called following notice of a reduction of one dollar a day in wages of miners, the reduction being based on the price of copper and made in accordance with an agreement with the old Western Federation of Miners several years ago. Skilled miners now are receiving under the old \$4.75 per day. Reports to-day showed 1,400 miners out at several big mines.

The engineers' union of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers refused to consider any strike action. The engineers' union is the largest in Butte.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 8.—The management of the London underground railways, in a statement issued this morning, said that no men had returned to work and it was impossible to say when service would be resumed.

The strikers' committee stated this noon that both sides were very near a settlement early this morning, but in further discussions drifted apart again, and the negotiations continued to-day, and the differences had so narrowed down that the members of the strike committee expressed opinion that a settlement would be reached before evening.

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DISCHARGING MEN RAPIDLY

Demobilization Machinery Works Faster Than Shipments

QUARTER MILLION SENT FROM FRANCE

Only "Overhead" Detachments of Home Army Will Be Kept

Washington, D. C., Feb. 8.—General March said to-day that demobilization in the United States now was on the "home stretch." Up to yesterday, a total of 67,038 officers and 1,933,812 men had been discharged, while the total ordered for discharge had reached 1,442,000.

The demobilization machinery is now at such a point of efficiency and operation, the chief of staff explained, that it is capable of handling more men than Pershing can possibly send, with available shipping. Of the troops in the United States, only the overhead detachments which must be maintained for future demobilization of returning units will be left.

Up to Jan. 31, 236,824 men had been returned from France. The department estimates that 100,000 will be returned in February. This is an increase of 46,000 over the January total due largely to the transformation of cargo vessels into transports. General March said that 51 cargo ships had been ordered converted and that the first of these were now coming into service.

Plans for divisional parades in home cities have been upset by the irregular flow of troops homeward. General March said the units were returning in such scattered form that in a great majority of cases it now seemed improbable that divisional organizations could be held together long enough for large parades.

The department is dealing with this question, however, as the divisions are ordered home. The 27th (New York National Guard) division, will be paraded in New York City, and plans for parading the 42d (Rainbow) division on its return in Washington. General March thought it would be carried out. Wherever opportunity offers for other division parades, advantage will be taken of it.

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COMMITTEES ARE WORKING

Some Vermont Legislators Are Getting into Spirit of the Work

OTHERS STAYED OVER BECAUSE OF WRECK

Patrol Bill Is One of the Measures Being Considered

About the corridors of the State House to-day, the future problems of the session, of the state and the country are being settled by little groups of citizens in earnest conversation. More than the ordinary number of legislators remained in Montpelier this week end, owing to the delay in train service last night, due to the wreck at South Royalton. Where a representative lives at the other end of the state, and depends upon an early start Friday to get him home so that he can spend an hour or so with his family before he has to start back again, a couple of hours' delay is enough to upset his plans.

However, there are other reasons why many of the legislators remained over this week end. Business is now getting heavier and many week-end committee meetings are being held in order that there may be no delay in the wheels of legislation when the legislature gets together again next week. Every day must count now, if the required amount of business is to be turned out within a reasonable time.

Among the committees which are doing business over the week end is the committee on highways and bridges, which has in hand H. 151, known as the patrol bill. This bill will be one of the feature exhibits of the coming week, with a public hearing to be staged in its honor on Tuesday evening. It is likely to bring forth as much discussion as any measure before the general assembly, for everyone realizes that the highway problem is one of Vermont's "hardest nuts to crack" just now.

Many of the legislators refuse to desert the hall of representatives, even during Saturday holiday, for several of the seats were occupied all morning with members writing, reading and discussing the issues of different bills. The Senate chamber rested in a stately calm.

Legislative Notes.

The ladies of the governor's family will be the hostesses at an afternoon tea to be given from 4 until 6 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 11, at the governor's residence, 118 State street. The invited guests will be the wives and daughters of the legislators and state officials.

Some comment has been made of late on stray cases of smoking while the House of Representatives was in session. A day or two ago, one of the spectators, not a resident of the state, inquired if it were customary for the legislators to smoke while the House was in session. The reply was that it never had been the custom, and that it was not supposed to be done, except during a recess.

MAY LOSE REPRESENTATIVE.

Out of the Fight for St. George's Seat in the Vermont House.

There is a possibility that the 20 old voters of the town of St. George may be without a representative in the legislature before another week has passed. As a result of a hearing held before the House committee on suffrage and elections during the past two days in the contest between Earl Ayers, who at present occupies the seat for St. George, and Nat. Parker, who claims the seat, it is rumored that the committee will rule that the vote was a tie and that there was no election. The official report of the committee will not be announced until next week.

In the spirited contest which has taken place before the committee, Warren Austin of Burlington represented Ayers, while Representative Hopkins of Vergennes was the attorney for Parker.

The question of election hinges upon two ballots cast for Parker and one for Ayers, which were ruled out of the final count as being defective. If these ballots are allowed, it is understood that the vote will be a tie. It was shown during the course of the hearing that L. Phillips and William McKemie, who reside in the town of St. George, were not residents of that town, and therefore, had no right to vote.

INQUIRIES ADDRESSED
To Our Allies by the United States Government.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 8.—Inquiries have been sent by the state department to Great Britain, France and Italy regarding the British import embargo, the French cartel system and the Italian system of government of the Italian purchases, all of which have an effect on American industries.

The British embargo has been the subject of warm debate in the Senate, where there is pending a resolution by Senator Weeks of Massachusetts, asking for information from the state department, and it was learned to-day that various complaints against it have been received by the state department from manufacturers.

Officials said to-day no evidence of discrimination had been presented, and unless discrimination existed the United States would have little ground on which to base any protest, inasmuch as it was recognized the countries of Europe were compelled to protect themselves during the readjustment of their industries to a peace basis.

TO CONFER WITH ALLIES.
President of Provisional Government in North Russia in Paris.

Paris, Feb. 7.—Nicholas Tchaikovsky, president of the provisional government of North Russia, arrived in Paris to-day to confer with delegates to the peace conference regarding the future of the Russian Republic. He spent the day in conference with delegates and Ambassador David R. Francis, with whom he called on Col. E. M. House.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 8.—Last week's casualty report, showing more than 100,000 men of the expeditionary force missing in action, has been corrected to make the total of 7,783. General March said to-day. General Pershing had reported the figures were being reduced by from 100 to 200 names per day, as a result of the checking of records in central records office in France.

The same time General Pershing gave the war department new totals of casualties in the first and second divisions, the marine brigade in the latter being included. The first division had a total of killed, died of wounds, missing and prisoners of 2,248; the second division total was 4,260.

SUPERIOR JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS
Have Been Announced by Chief Judge Stanton.

L. C. Moody, clerk of the supreme court, has published the list of assignments of the superior judges, under direction of Chief Judge Z. S. Stanton. The list of assignments was recently prepared by Judge Stanton and his associates. The list follows:

Stanton, C. J.; Orleans, March 11; Essex, April 22; Caledonia, June 3; Chittenden, Sept. 9; Windsor, Oct. 7.

Butler, J. Rutland, March 11; Bennington, June 3; Washington, Sept. 9; Orange, Dec. 2.

Fish, J.; Washington, March 11; Lamoille, June 3; Grand Isle, Aug. 12; Rutland, Sept. 9; Caledonia, Dec. 2.

Shack, J.; Windham, April 8; Addison, June 3; Franklin, Sept. 9; Bennington, Dec. 2.

Wilson, J.; Franklin, March 11; Windsor, May 6; Windham, Sept. 9; Lamoille, Dec. 2; Grand Isle, Jan. 1